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IMMEDIATE D[redacted]
ATTENTION G[redacted]

1. DECISIONS D[redacted] AYLOAD ITEMS THREATEN THE CORONA LAUNCH SCHEDULE AND THEREFORE THE AVAILABILITY OF TIMELY DATA TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. FURTHERMORE, PARALLEL APPROACHES TO THE PAYLOAD CONTRACTORS REQUESTING SAME OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL DATA AND SERVICES ARE EMBARRASSING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND CONFUSING TO THE CONTRACTORS.

2. A SERIES OF RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS THIS PROBLEM. ON 4 FEBRUARY, WITH NO PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH CIA HEADQUARTERS, THE PAYLOAD SYSTEM INTEGRATOR CONTRACTOR, OR THE RESIDENT MANAGER AT [redacted]DERED RECOVERY VEHICLE FOREBODIES REPLACED ON MISSION 1017 SYSTEM, IT ALSO DIRECTED THAT NO MISSIONS WOULD BE FLOWN IN WHICH FOREBODIES WOULD BE SCHEDULED WHEREIN THE AGE AT RECOVERY WOULD EXCEED TWELVE MONTHS. THIS DIRECTIVE, ISSUED WITHOUT REGARD FOR PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE CAUSED CORONA OPERATIONAL STAND DOWN OF THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. [redacted] AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO SHELF LIFE [redacted] D[redacted] TELECON AND TWX OF ACTIONS UNDERWAY AND PENDING, [redacted] ISSUED DIRECTIVE TWX'S T[redacted] D[redacted] REPEATING COMPETITIVE DIRECTIONS AND REQUESTING SIMILAR INFORMATION.

D[redacted]TION, ON BEING INFORMED THAT THE FOREBODIES ON MISSION 1017 WERE CONSIDERED [redacted]S NOT FLIGHTWORTHY, WAS TO (A) DIR[redacted]PLACE IT[redacted] YOUNGER FOREBODIES, (B) SEND THE REPLACED ITEMS BACK [redacted] FOR TESTS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED TO INDICATE OVERAGE IN D[redacted]RAM, (C) DIR[redacted] EVALUATE THE SHELF LIFE OF [redacted] NECESSARY TO SUPP[redacted] REQUIREMENT AS INDICATED [redacted] AND (D) TO ASSESS PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGEST REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PRESERVE PROGRAM INTEGR[redacted] SO INITIATED ACTION WITH D[redacted] TO DETERMINE SPECIFICALLY THE VALIDITY OF THE INFORMATION ON SHELF LIFE LIMITATIONS IN F[redacted] DATA WERE COLLECTED ON ALL FOREBODIES SHIPPED FR[redacted] UNITS WHICH WERE NOT FLOWN FOR ANY REASON, THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN REPAIRED, AND SUBSEQUENTLY FLOWN.

~~SECRET~~

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E LENGTH OF TIME UNITS WERE EXPOSED TO THE THERMAL ENVIRONMENT AND FINAL FLIGHT RELIABILITY.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE DATA HAS ESTABLISHED FLIGHT ACCEPTABILITY RELIABILITY FOR FOREBODIES OF AT LEAST 17 MONTHS. A SEPARATE TWX IS BEING DIRECTED [redacted] IMPLEMENTATION. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED T[redacted] ON FOREBODY AND OTHER SRV SHELF LIFE CRITERIA.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, AND OTHER INSTANCES WHEREIN SIMILAR UNILAT[redacted]OGRAM OFFICE ACTION HAS PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE PROGRAM PERTURBATION, WE HAVE INFORMED [redacted] 2551 THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FO[redacted]IED PAYLOAD HARDWARE ON A SCHEDULE RESPONSIVE TO TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS RESTS [redacted]ND HAVE DIRECTED THEM TO RESPOND ONLY TO DIRECTION RECEIVED [redacted] ORDER THAT FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM DIFFICULTIES BE OBVIATED.

6 WITH THESE ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY AT [redacted] WE QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF THE PRO[redacted] CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME.

S E C R E T

CFN 2611 GENERA[redacted]A 4 FEB NO PRIOR CIA A/P 1017 NO MISSIONS 1017 NOT FLIGHTWORTH[redacted]NOT FLOWN 17 MONTHS A SRV 241 2551 17 FEB

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